

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, April 30, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, April 30, 1845.

My Dear General: I leave in the morning on an errand to Philadelphia, and as the Globe closes with the day I cannot forbear to say a word to you on closing the editorial corner to which you called me. It has been to me a most prosperous (and I will say in spite of the federalists) a most honorable one. It has blended, in some sort, my obscure name with that of the greatest and best man of the time and has made the ablest and most renowned of them all, *my friend*. And such a friend no man ever had before. Your strength has sustained me against all combinations, won against that once formed in your own Cabinet, and if it has not prevailed over that which has discontinued the Globe, it is not because *it cannot* but because it is no longer my care to contend. I believe the good of our party will be promoted by my yielding on the present occasion and I have, therefore, yielded willingly, I hope you will think gracefully. It costs me some sacrifice of pride, none of interest or inclination. I wished to perpetuate the Globe as the offspring of your administration and the supporter of Mr. Van Buren's in the hope that it would hand down to distant generations the principles to which it owed its origin and which it triumphed in supporting to the very last. But the President called by the people to fill your place has frustrated this design. His position I thought gave him some right to make this decree against the Globe. The people gave him the right to conduct the cause and I would not deny him the instrument. If he proves capable and faithful I shall rejoice at his success and

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will harbour no malice towards him for what may seem ingratitude to me. But if he betrays the cause he may again hear of the *Globe*.

The Presses types buildings etc. of the Establishment were valued at $35,000. It cost us upwards of $60,000. Mr. Rives says it is worth $100,000 to Ritchie and Heiss 1 with the subscription list and the good

1 The *Globe* was sold to Thomas Ritchie and John P. Heiss, who changed the name to the *Union*. Polk had insisted on this change of editors to satisfy the Calhoun wing of the party, now back in the fold, but always smarting under the lashing Blair had given them. See Ambler, *Thomas Ritchie* , p. 251, and McCormac, *James K. Polk* , pp. 331–333.

will and my interest without compensation. Without it, if elected printers to congress they would loose largely as they could not create such an establishment in the recess to meet the emergency.